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p. 20

# INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

Medical College,

ON THE

OPENING OF THE SESSION, 1858-59.

BY

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ASSISTANT-SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL, ETC.

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OMHIS



## INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

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GENTLEMEN,

A Lecture introducing a new Medical Session must bring back to many here present multiform reminiscences of past labours, past struggles, and of ensured success. Many will listen to such a discourse with experienced criticism sharpened by twenty or thirty such lectures still sounding in their ears, and their mind will be carried back to time past, when years ago they heard their first introductory lecture from the lips perhaps of an Astley Cooper, a Sir Charles Bell, or a Sir B. Brodie. Reminiscences of teachers long dead; and of the past, may be conjured up,—reminiscences of work done with them and for them,—recollections of the doubts and difficulties of early professional life, and of their final conquest.

Others of my hearers will listen with the fresh earnestness of youth: it will be to them not merely their first but their only real introductory lecture, the only one that may be said to place their feet upon the beginning of the path along which they have chosen to direct their life. These will expect some account of the work to be done, some description of the machinery whereby they, the raw

material, are to be worked and moulded into the careful, steady medical man. The student, and more especially the new student, must pardon me that I have described him as “raw material,” a term not in this instance derogatory, since however careful and successful may have been his general education, however cultivated his intellect or refined his taste, yet is he, as regards the creature he must in a few short years become, decidedly raw and undrilled.

The student of Oxford or Cambridge has already in his school-days commenced most of the studies which he is to complete at the University. His Greek and Latin, his boating and his boxing, are carried on more or less under college laws and the control of authorities,—the dons and the proctors watching over his morality with more or less success. The student of medicine comes to brilliant, exciting London; is placed in the midst of its distractions, unprotected by college gates to shut out nightly its temptations, and, except at the actual lecture hour, is not under the control of his teachers. He is to begin a set of difficult studies, which are in most cases perfectly new to him, and for which an ordinary school education is but a very slight preparation. Full of young and vigorous life,—full, let us hope, of good aspirations and resolves,—he enters these walls, and in three short years is to have acquired such science as shall render him fit to be a commencing practitioner of the most difficult art, which ever falls to the lot of man to practise.

Do not then for one moment imagine, that the path upon which you enter this day is an easy one, for it is, on the contrary, rough, uneven, and full of thorns, upon which a few scattered roses grow. You begin now to study the *ars medendi*, and that study will probably only

cease with your lives. 'The greater part of man's knowledge is not what others have taught him, but what he has taught himself. Here we can inculcate little more than the A B C of the science; the rest of its alphabet and its glorious application you may learn perhaps in peaceful England, perhaps on many battle-fields, perchance beneath the tropics, or among the polar ice. For wherever the restless Anglo-Saxon blood prompts our countrymen to wander, thither are they accompanied, there protected, by our art and its professors. Whether you stay at home or travel to the East or to the West, there shall you find your confraternity labouring among the helpless and the poor, carrying civilization and the practical Christianity of good deeds among savages and outcasts.

The doctor is to all an indispensable support and protector; into his hands man falls at the very moment of his birth; from his hands he falls into those of death; throughout man's career he must trust his life, his health, that of his dearest kindred, to the doctor's care, and often thus the happiness, the welfare, ay, the very honour of a whole family, lie entirely in his hands, confided solely to his wisdom and discretion. See then what a profession you have chosen, one to which men flee only when in trouble, when sickness overwhelms them, or when the discrimination of a keen mind and kind heart is the only harbour of refuge in some hurricane of affliction. Think how carefully each should educate himself to undertake such difficult and responsible affairs; how criminal becomes carelessness during student-days, which might render him incapable of acting when called upon to do so, or might cause him to act wrongly, inflicting injuries which he can never sufficiently repent. No, you have undertaken no light task; but one which requires the



whole energy of your mind, the whole power of your will, exercised from this time forward to the end.

Proud are we, as a body, to find how seldom our members fail: in faithfulness, in courage, or in skill, how seldom found wanting. We reckon in our ranks (of Englishmen only) Hervey, who discovered the circulation; Jenner, who has saved probably as many lives as the Bonapartes sacrificed; Hunter, whose unerring genius detected so many laws of surgical art; Thompson, who, left behind upon the field of Alma with hundreds of the wounded and pest-stricken enemy, did his hard duty with a noble self-devotion, the only reward of which was a painful and lonely death; Livingstone, who opens to the civilizing power of our race a continent three or four times as large as Europe, who carries to the innermost parts of unexplored regions the tidings that a white race exists, enemies to cruelty and slavery; Whitehouse, who connects together the new and the old world by a strong cable, and carries a new path for intelligence "under the roots of the ocean." Yet why need I to multiply examples? My place is not to sing pæans over the deeds of our brothers, nor do I point out these latter famous and astounding instances as things which the medical man should ordinarily covet to perform. If truth lies in the proverb, "All is not gold that glitters," so is it also in the converse, "All gold does not glitter;" and in our profession you will find, more than in any other, that class of men whom Carlyle calls "unaccredited heroes," men of education and of skill, living and exercising in remote villages among miners or ploughmen, in manufacturing towns among weavers and shoebinders, a steady, quiet, and (upon earth) an unrewarded self-devotion.

Still, I say, my business is not to praise our brothers,



but rather to endeavour to point out how you should educate yourselves to fulfil your task, in whatever place the lot of life may cast you; for whether as a poor-law surgeon, with his little pay and much work, whether in such examples as I have given you, or in the first practice of a large town; whether among rich or poor, black, white, or red men, you will find only different spheres for exercising the same skill and the same virtues.

In times gone by, the study of medicine was less severe than now; some of the ancients, Hippocrates, Galen, Celsus, Avicenna, and others, had left behind them a number of practical observations, which are often remarkably true, but often very false; they are, generally speaking, disjointed, and have no logical string to keep them together. Yet apothegms of one or the other, or of all these authors, were committed to memory by the medical aspirants of the day; a more or less good knowledge of Latin, with perhaps a smattering of Greek, an acquaintance with the properties, supposititious or otherwise, of an immense and heterogeneous collection of drugs and ointments, a faith in and knowledge of propitious and adverse stars, were about all that was necessary. In turning over old books on medicine and surgery, we find them chiefly to consist of a number of recipes against apothumes and diseases from "a hot and cold cause;" and though here and there we discover a germ of truth strangely hit upon, and again strangely lost, yet whenever these authors attempted to combine their practice into some general law or theorem, they lost sight of the simple teaching of their experience, and having not an idea of bodily actions, not even of the circulation of the blood, they wandered among cold, hot, and viscid humours, among animal spirits and planetary

influences, until their descriptions of disease, of its treatment, and of the action of remedies, became involved in a jargon that at the present day we can scarcely understand.

Let me give, even at the risk of wearying you, one or two examples, taken without the necessity of much trouble in the selection. Thus, in the ‘Regiment of Health,’\* “The sixth thing is eating of braines: and wit well that braines be ill for the stomacke, and they cause loathsomenesse, and take away a man’s appetite, and braines engender grosse humours; yet neverthelesse it nourisheth the bodie, if it be well digested. But in no wise it shoulde be eaten after other meats, and if it be dressed with Penyriale or Nepte to attemper the claminesse and colde thereof, or with things, that by their vertue give heat, it is holesome as *Rasis* saith: and briefly to speake, braines is forbidden in the Regiment of Health. But yet sometimes it dooth well in medicines, as the braine of a little Goat is good against venome and against venomous bytings; and a Hare’s braine is good against trembling. And some say the braine of Chickens and Capons is good for the memory, and comforteth the wit.”

Again, I will quote from Stephen Bradwell, a London physician, who wrote on the plague in 1636.†

“This Putrefaction may be caused by the influence of the *starres*, who doe undoubtedly worke upon all sub-lunarie bodies. For astrologers are of opinion, that if *Saturne* and *Mars* have dominion (especiallly under *Aries*, *Sagittarius*, and *Capricorn*) a Pestilence is shortly to be

\* A work written in Latin by Salernian physicians for Robert of Normandy. It was translated into English by Thomas Paynell, in 1597.

† ‘Physicke for the Sicknesse, Commonly called the PLAGUE. With all the Particular Syns and Symptoms whereof the most are too ignorant.’

expected. Or if these two (the most malevolent) be in opposition to the gentle planet *Jupiter*." (P. 3.)

Further on our author says :—

"And first, those are most apt to be infected that have *thin bodyes* and *open pores*, and whose *hearts* are so *hot* that they neede much attraction of aire to coole them.

"Also they whose *veynes* and *vessels* are full of *grosse humors* and corrupt juyces (the *venemous matter* being thicke and therefore unapt to breath through the pores) their *putrefaction* is increased by the inward heat, and so driven to *malignitie* and thenee onward to a *pestilent qualitie*. Henec those bodyes that are moist and full of *phlegmaticke* humors, whose *Veines* are straight (and therefore apter to intercept than entertaine those well concocted juyces that would make the purest Bloud) and the thiknesse of whose skin denies the transpiration of exerements: the seare easily polluted and infected." (P. 7.)

I think that Shakspeare, with the acuteness of genius, must have seen through and intended to ridicule these wonderful rules and discourses, when he puts into the mouth of "*kind* Jaek Falstaff, *true* Jaek Falstaff," the following words :—

"A good Sherris-sack hath a twofold operation in it, it ascends me into the brain, dries me there all the foolish, dull, and erudy vapours which environ it; make it apprehensive, quiek, forgetive, full of nimble, fiery, and delectable shapes, which, delivered over to the voice, the tongue, which is the birth, becomes excellent wit. The second property of your excellent Sherris is the warming of the blood, which before cold and settled, left the liver white and pale, which is the badge of pusillanimity and cowardice, but the Sherris warms it and makes it course from the inwards to the parts extreme; it illumineth the

face, which as a beacon gives warning to all the rest of this little kingdom, Man, to arm; and then the vital commoners and inland petty spirits muster me all to their captain, the heart, who, great and puffed up with this retinue, doth any deed of courage, and this valour comes of Sherris.”\*

This sort of writing or conversation was looked upon as very learned and scientific, as astrology and the black art were considered the *ne plus ultra* of human wisdom; but after a time, as all true sciences arose out of false ones, so Alchemy begat Chemistry, Astrology bore Astronomy, Neeromaney produced Natural Philosophy, and the above strange theories gave birth to Physiology. These changes began about the time and shortly after the Reformation. At that period, which Wordsworth calls,

“Of a pure faith the vernal prime  
In great Eliza’s golden time,”

human intellect seemed to shake off his fetters, and to burst from his dungeons and torture-chambers into free light; but the reptiles of darkness still hung, indeed still hang, on his skirts. Thus astrologers flourished and realized much money in 1680; fortune-tellers flourish now. Charms against diseases are still sold. Clairvoyance, table-turning, and spirit-rapping have their votaries among the educated classes. Persons have lately been convicted of practising witchcraft; others, as you know, practise homœopathy. However, these things do not impede the calm, steady gait of science; since Harvey first laid the foundation of physiology, when he discovered the circulation of the blood, medical knowledge has gradually gone on increasing in magnitude and weight; and now almost all other sciences must be used

\* Second Part of Henry IV., Act iv., Scene 7.



simply as levers to lift its enormous mass. The most abstruse chemistry, the highest mathematics, the furthest theorems in optics, dynamics, statics, hydraulics, etc., are employed, and in most cases with success. In other cases the fortress is too closely guarded, and no science can as yet furnish us with artillery strong enough to break its gates. We cannot claim to have a perfect science; there is still room for any of you to immortalize your names by making some discovery of a great onward step. But first you must learn what we already know, which will fully occupy your time for the next few years.

I have named a quantity of sciences, handmaids to that of medicine, and it would doubtless be in accordance with strict logic were I to recommend you to become acquainted with each of them before attempting the mistress; but art is long and life is short; logic therefore must yield to the still more imperative demands of time. It is only a few of the Profession, who can be expected to devote themselves to the perfection of science; the rest must be contented to receive from their lips the results of their labours. It is not generally necessary, that the practitioner should be able to calculate the rapidity of the blood-stream in vessels of different sizes, nor determine the rate of transmission of nervous force, etc., but it is necessary, that the products of suchlike investigations should be familiar to him, that he should be well acquainted with the structure and functions of the body in health and disease.

The structure of the body, under the name of "Anatomy," is the first indispensable groundwork of all medical and surgical knowledge: work at it *intensely*, so that you make it not only your own, but a part of yourself. The student is much better provided with



applianecs at the present day, than some few years ago, —woodcuts, engravings, diagrams, are much more easily procured. In the lectures on this subject by my colleague, Mr. Canton, you will have the most precise, picturesque, and comprehensible explanations; but the lecturer will coincide with me in assuring you, that every one and all of these methods of teaching will be useless, unless at the same time you work diligently in the dissecting-room. A new Inspector of Anatomy (as the officer whose duty it is to superintend the supply of subjects to the London Medical Schools is called) has given much promise of activity and care, therefore it is to be hoped, that there will be no shortcoming in the supply of subjects, and also it is to be hoped that you will avail yourselves thereof. Perhaps, to the unaccustomed senses, this mode of study will at first be highly disagreeable, but it is astonishing how soon this feeling wears off, and how soon it is overcome by the interest in the work. When a little skill has been acquired, it is delightful to see the anatomical forms and positions, the cleaned muscles, the tortuous vessels, the networks of nerves grow, as it were, under successive touches of the knife. It is a good plan, if two, whose acquirements and character agree, work at the subject together, and while one dissects, the other reads the descriptions of the parts, that each one may fix its name and connections in the mind as it is exposed to the eye.

To carry out your study of the structure of the body, it is necessary to work at its minute build. Science has now reached with us a point, at which the knowledge of the microscope becomes really indispensable,—you know but half the story, unless acquainted with its minutiae. This great instrument of anatomical and pathological

research first became applied to that purpose about 1660 by Leeuwenhoek, a Dutchman, who was much in England, and was a member on its first establishment of our "Royal Society." The microscopes, possessed at that time, were of course somewhat rude, yet he really did great things with them, although one or two of his descriptions and drawings are rather imaginative than true. Of late much pains has been bestowed upon the manufacture of the very best glasses, and at the same time upon their use. We seem to have advanced immensely in our knowledge of both healthy and diseased tissues, and now no one can be up to the present knowledge, in medicine or surgery, without studying minute anatomy. I know, that many people have objected greatly to the microscope, particularly in pathological investigations, saying that the instrument does not show us more than the naked eye; indeed not so much, since we only see a little piece of the tissue examined, and see that differently. This reasoning would be very good, if any one proposed to use the instrument to the exclusion of his unaided sense; but no sane person ever dreams of doing so, and the fact therefore, that what we do see is seen differently, argues directly for the use of the microscope. Think how much more we should know of the history of any period, if we could look at its events both with the eyes of its own time and of the present time also. How much more, then, must we know of the structure of a part, if we can see it with our own eyes, and also with eyes four hundred times as strong.

Every student should, I conceive, possess a microscope (very good and sufficient ones to begin with are now to be obtained for six guineas); he should work with it, and make himself well acquainted with its manipulation; he



should take every opportunity of examining the minute structure of different parts of the body, the appearances of crystals in secretions, the conditions of different fluids, etc. etc. He may then advance to the study of diseased structures, so that the instrument may become an aid and a friend to him.

I read, so many years ago that I forget where, an old account of an analysis made upon some earthy or mineral substance. The writer related, that after having driven off by heat certain portions of phlogiston and other gases, whose nature could not be determined, there was left a little dirty substance, which he threw away. Since the time when this analysis was made, chemistry has assumed quite a different aspect, and within the last few years particularly has made the greatest strides. Organic chemistry has been born only about twenty years, and, although very far from perfect, is of enormous value to the medical man, giving him again another and totally distinct view of bodily structure. Even on these grounds I should recommend you to give, during the ensuing year, great attention to this subject. But chemistry is moreover essential to the practitioner in many ways; firstly, by its means certain diseases are to be detected; secondly, it aids essentially in prescribing; thirdly, it is frequently the method whereby crime is proved, poisonings discovered,—ay, the very grains of poison which destroyed the victim may be found and separated, may come out of the grave, appear before the murderer's eyes, and give the damning witness of his guilt. Chemistry has proved the proverb false;—by her aid “dead men tell tales.”

Arrangements have been made, whereby you will, after having become acquainted with the theory of the science,

be enabled to acquire skill in chemical manipulation. Under the superintendence of the lecturer, Mr. Tuson, you will learn to make analyses, to study practically the powers of different reagents,—in fact, to put in actual practice the subject of the lectures. I should hope that before the end of this academical year, you will be able to make a very different analysis from the one above mentioned.

Physiology may be said to have begun its apprenticeship with Hervey, and to have completed it under Hunter. I use two English names, not because I am ignorant of the excellent labours in this science of Continental *savants*, but because Hervey undoubtedly laid its foundation by proving the circulation of the blood, and because since that, until Hunter's time, no one had ever made such advances as that great man secured. The votaries of this science are now very many, although lately great men have died, Magendie, Marshall Hall, John Müller; yet can we count in England, as on the Continent, many worthy names; Todd, Bowman, Carpenter, Grainger, Bernard, Brown-Séquard, Flourens, Matteucci, Du Bois-Reymond, Virchow, Kölliker, and very many others. That constant labour, experiment, and thought is being expended upon this subject by so many men of large intellect, with, it must be acknowledged, a comparatively slow progress, is a proof of its immense difficulty. The intervention of so many collateral and disturbing circumstances, the difficulty of contemplating any one bodily action separated from other and modifying actions, the fallacy of experiment unless most rigidly conducted, and often the impossibility of all experiment, render the unravelling and explanation of some functions so difficult as to appear almost hopeless.

This is not to be wondered at ; Physiology endeavours to discover the meehanism of all those aetions, which together producc life. Life, that mysterious attribute of matter, which causes it to come forth, to grow, to change substance constantly, yet to remain the same thing, and to producc new creatures like itself, without itself decreasing,—here alone, even here, in the common life of the plant, are riddles hard enough ; but the science aims at explaining the last crowning work of the Almighty, made in his own image, the being, who moves and thinks and speaks, who subdues the earth and the creatures thereof, who is conscious he has another life to come. No, indeed, it is not to be wondered at, that man has not as yet succeeded in fathoming the mysteries of his own existence, rather is it marvellous that he has penetrated so deep ; for the labors of physiologists have discovered so many facts, as to elevate this branch of medical knowledge into a very extended and elaborate science. If anatomy, teaching the position of parts, be necessary, so also is physiology, which treats of their action ; one without the other can hardly be conceived, they complete and explain each other. In the hands of my friend Dr. Hyde Salter, the subject loses none of its value, nor attractions. The first year's student *must* find it in the beginning involved and hard of comprehension (however lucid the explanations), but it will become clearer as he goes on, and its interest and importance will of itself ensure his most earnest attention.

These three sciences, Anatomy,\* Physiology,\* and Chemistry, form the tripod, upon which medical knowledge stands, and they are especially to engage the work

\* These two studies are carried on throughout the second and third year.

of the first year's student ; but at the same time he is to study disease ; surgical lectures, and clinical surgical lectures, medical and surgical practice in the wards and out-patients' room are to be attended to. It may at first seem hardly reasonable that before the groundwork of the subject is laid by the acquirement of the three above-named elements, we should already require you to pass to the end, and to study disease and its treatment ; but again do the exigencies of time prevent a sedate sequence in logical order of work ; and builders will tell you, that the roof of a house is in course of construction long before the walls are in a fit state to support it. Although, then, you may not be able to comprehend all that Mr. Hancock may tell you in his most valuable surgical lectures, nor to follow the reasons and advantages of the hospital practice in the wards and out-patients' room ; yet if you persevere, connecting, as you proceed, the knowledge gained in one course of studies, with that acquired in another, you will find them help instead of retarding one another. To render this mutual aid more certain and effectual, you will be obliged to commit much to writing, so that you can refer to past lectures or cases whenever necessary. For this purpose students are usually recommended to take notes at lecture, and to write them out at full in the evening ; and this is an excellent plan for those who can do it. As a student I could not take notes, but could write out my lectures much better (in many places *verbatim*) when I had not attempted it, because it always happened, that while writing down what the lecturer had just said, that which he was saying escaped unheard ; yet this, doubtless, was a loss to me. Let those who can, take notes, and at all events write out in the evening the subject of the lecture.



It is a most excellent practice to record cases in Hospital; I believe that unless the student does this, he will hardly acquire that minuteness and precision of observation so essential to the medical man. At first his notes may be rather minute and even discursive, for his knowledge will not enable him to detect the trivial or useless circumstances of a case, and he had better record many unimportant, than omit one essential particular; for incompleteness, in this, as in every other part of your work, is a fatal error. Although a number of carefully recorded cases will be of value to you in after-life, I would strongly advise you not to take them indiscriminately, nor to scatter your attention over several classes of disease at the same time. Choose one, or two at the outside, and make yourselves thoroughly acquainted with their aspect, symptoms, and treatment. Suppose there are several cases of fever, or rheumatism, or joint-disease, in the house; choose one of these sets, study the examples, and take notes; at the same time read the best works that treat especially of the disease; do not be content with simply a chapter in some work on general medicine or surgery, but get the best monographs on the subject in hand, read them and note any differences you may find between the cases themselves and their written description. Thus you will gradually pass in review most maladies, that flesh is heir to, and acquire an accurate knowledge of each.

Accuracy is the thing to aim at; avoid a smattering as you would poison. Whatever you touch, grasp completely.

It seems right to mention a matter, in which second year's students are more especially interested, namely a change, that has taken place in the mode of examination

of students at the College of Surgeons and Apothecaries' Hall. Each of these institutions has hitherto been satisfied with the student's acquirements, if, after the usual three, or rather two and a half years' hospital attendance he could get through an examination of about an hour's duration. For years past, however, there has been considerable dissatisfaction, in which the College held a proud pre-eminence. It has been alleged that a quarter of an hour's talk at four different tables was an insufficient test of a man's knowledge and capacity; that such rapid question-and-answer fencing with so many different interlocutors was often more troublesome to the steady student, who had acquired his knowledge in the wards and in the dissecting-room, than to the lazy one, whose visits had been, only in their rarity, like angels'; but who had been ground to a false edge or crammed to bursting-point with word-knowledge, catch-questions, and cues. The examinations have now, therefore, been divided into two; the first to come at the end of the second winter, with the desire to do away with this grinding system.

I do most heartily hope, that the plan will succeed; for grinding is the dishonest termination to a dishonourable studentship. It is dishonest to the friends, who placed him in a position to learn well; dishonest to himself, by receiving the wage, which he has not properly earned; and dishonest to the public, who are supposed to take the diploma as a guarantee of real knowledge, and not as a spark from the grinder's wheel.

I can well understand, that the student in pondering over the multiplicity of subjects, he must study during this ensuing year, will feel somewhat appalled at their amount and difficulty, and will ask himself how it is

possible for mortal man to do so much in so short a time. If Jack the Giant-killer had sat down staring at his enemies and lamenting that they were not ever so little smaller, Blunderbore or his heirs might still be crying "Fee, faw, fum!" about the coasts of Cornwall, and the account of the hero's doings would never have afforded us our first delightful lesson in English history. You must go to the work in the same way, and instead of contemplating the size of your giant, attack him at once, and you will have partly slain him before you have time to be alarmed at his bulk. Doubtless you must work hard; your labour must be good both in quantity and quality, in the latter particularly. The number of hours in the day that a man can work depends, in part, upon his health; but the mode of study changes so constantly, between lectures, dissecting, and going round the wards, that one may labor a long time without fear of injury.

As to the quality of study, I can only say that it ought to be *intense*. Of all things avoid a yawning, yea-forsooth method of neither working nor playing, which will only utterly unfit you for real labour and deceive you as to the value of your time. When a man has spent a large portion of his day on the steps of the Hospital, criticizing the erinoline of the passers-by, and causing the the public to wonder whether all medical men undergo their early training in the streets, or when he has got up a correct and intimate knowledge of the cabstand opposite, or when he has lounged all the morning in the hospital passages and exchanged a sufficiency of compliments or otherwise with the porter, he will hardly be able to sum up lasting results from his day's work. Crinoline is like any other mundane glory transitory; the cabstand is not stable; the accident-chair in the



hall, however comfortable as a seat, cannot be an abiding resting-place, and the student, who devotes himself too much to these things will not go on with the rapid stream of time, but will be left floundering about the neighbouring strand.

Avoid this sort of kill-time. When you play, amuse yourself as much as you can; and when you work, work as though it were your last hour, and you meant to get up the subject thoroughly before it passed over. This is the only real work; and the power of thus labouring is, I believe, the chief secret of "genius." Those acts which dazzle the world by their brillianey, and astonish by the ease of their performance, are nearly always the result of some concentrated labour at the time or on a previous occasion. When you come to the Hospital, come with a purpose, and perform that purpose with all your strength and might.

Thus, then, you may learn by using both your time and your brains thoroughly well; but suppose, as it must be confessed is sometimes the case, any one does not choose to do so, how are we to teach him? It is doubtless for this class that Byron thus writes:—

"Oh ye who teach th' ingenuous youth of nations  
Of Holland, France, Germany, England, Spain,  
I pray ye flog them upon all occasions:  
It mends their manners; never mind the pain!"

Yet though the poet thus agrees with the wise Hebrew king, you have probably outgrown so stern a method of teaching, even could knowledge be administered by the endermic method. We cannot force the lazy to learn. Lectures, both general and clinical, demonstrations in the dissecting-room, wards, museum, library, laboratory, are here open to him, and the student may or may not take

advantage of them, as the amount of his conscience and good sense may direct. But another mode of acquiring knowledge should be mentioned, a mode, which a tolerably long acquaintance with medical schools shows me, that the student too often neglects; I mean, asking questions upon any ill-understood or doubtful point. He that questions much shall learn much, and you will always find the Professors ready, even desirous, of clearing away any cloud, that may have settled upon your studies. It is impossible to guess their existence, but if they be mentioned, the teacher will do his best to dissipate them. Ask also advice concerning the books or monographs you should study on the cases, upon which you are working. There are, besides, many difficulties, which are not directly connected with medical studies, but which a young man, far from the relations and guardians of his boyhood, must encounter or avoid. In many such cases a word or two of advice may save months of regret; and I am certain to speak simply the feelings of my colleagues in this school, in saying that none of them will turn away from or deal hardly with one who seeks such counsel of them frankly and heartily.

And now, Gentlemen, having pointed out to the best of my abilities how you may acquire the skill which I told you the medical man must exercise in whatever place his fortunes carry him, it now behoves me to say a few words of his virtues, of what they are, and of their attainment. The mission of the medical man is especially among the sick and the distressed; it is his to be in pain and difficulty the one guide, the perfectly reliable helper and support. To fulfil this duty worthily, he must at any moment be ready to give up schemes of amusement

and pleasure, to give up ease and comfort at the call of all who suffer and have need of him, to leave his more ambitious studies, and, however desirous of distinction, be

“More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.”

He must abstract his mind at once from the joys of his home circle, from the gaiety of society, or from the now useless experiment, he has left on the eve of completion, and bend it with his whole force to the alleviation of the trouble, to which he has been summoned. The patient may be rich and able to remunerate the labour he imposes, or poor, and unable even to find the necessities of life. To the medical man these matters are of secondary import; he has not two sorts of advice, one of a good quality, for the wealthy patient, and another of a less valuable character, for the poor; but by whomsoever called, to him does he give the most valuable or enjoyable of his time, and the best results of his studies. For much of this work he must expect no remuneration, no reward; let his services to his neighbours be ever so great, they are too often scantily recognized and grudgingly remunerated; let his talents have added to his country's resources, redounded to her honour, or saved her citizens from pestilence, his reward will be, if possible, withheld, or will be given so late as to have lost great part of its value. There are scarcely prizes in our profession; we have no means of getting into the House of Lords, like churchmen and lawyers; Baronetcy and Knighthood are only bestowed on certain Court Officers. The medical man, knowing this, does not make his profession a means to such an end. It is itself his end and aim; to practise it skilfully and honorably, his glory and its own reward. Thus it is evident that the qualities

which such a man must, above all others, possess, are the two great virtues of Christianity, self-devotion and self-denial; unless these have been acquired, he has but half educated himself, he has gained the intellectual without the moral development, which fits him for his position. Without devotion to his profession and its charitable duties, how will he bear to be interrupted and prevented by the calls of misery and poverty? Without greater self-denial, than most men have to practise, how will he not only resist many and peculiar temptations, but not even be touched by them?—how will he be the perfectly reliable and trustworthy depository of personal or family honour? Of all parts of a medical man's character, this of reliability and steadfastness is the most essential. No talent, no skill, no genius even, can make up for its absence; and though I would willingly have you fail in no part of your profession, yet would I rather see you make an obvious blunder in diagnosis and treatment every month of the year, than once in the whole course of your lives fail in professional honor and integrity.

But the qualities, on which the foundation of the medical moral character is to be laid, are not sufficiently strong by nature alone, to carry it scatheless through all difficulties; they must be cultivated and tended; therefore, as even now you begin your intellectual so also begin your moral training. Popular notions have assigned to the medical student a mode of existence, which is hardly likely to render him self-denying and above temptation in after-years. If indeed he lead a life of debauchery and riot, it is probable that neither his medical education, nor that of which I am now speaking, will be successful. London is full of temptations of all



sorts; means of amusement crowd on every side, some vicious, others innocent in themselves and only injurious when they trespass on your time and thought. You can, if you please, make of all these so many pitfalls, and tumble incontinently into them. You may enjoy a game of billiards or of bowls, or a row on the river now and then, with advantage, or you may devote yourselves entirely to those pursuits; you may take healthful exercise in the streets, or you may turn your walks into seasons of debauchery; you have but to make your choice.

However much one may determine to resist evil, there is no necessity for dullness of wit and a lugubrious countenance; virtue is not incompatible with cakes and ale. Enjoy thoroughly both your work and your amusements. Make friends and enjoy their friendship. You will not be fitting yourselves for an active life of good in the world, if you close the sporting-door of your hearts, and keep out mirth and good-fellowship in their season. I am no advocate for sombre thoughts and disfigured countenances, but I am a zealous one for that mode of life which shall render you strong in the way I have described, which shall make you *gentlemen*, not merely in manner and position, but in upright truthfulness of heart, in that charity, which desires to injure the feelings of no one, however poor and humble, and in that virtue which shall make sacred any fault, or any innocence, however helpless, that may be entrusted to your keeping.

There is no need to continue on this theme. Every one, who has thought twice on the career he begins to-day, understands its importance. It is neither my taste nor my vocation to preach, and it is to be hoped that I have not appeared to mistake this baize-covered table for

a pulpit. A king who chose to write under the name of a preacher, who was the wisest of men, whose words, therefore, must have more weight with you than my poor speech can have, thus exhorts his hearers:—

“Rejoice, young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.”







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